

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADEIn the claims:

Claims 29, 33, 37, 41, 45, 46, 48, 51, and 53 have been **amended** as follows:

29. (Amended Three Times) A communications data processing apparatus connecting to an external device via a public communications line, comprising:

a receiver that receives data containing first time information representing first time from said external device via the public communications line;

a setting device that sets second time as second time information for the communications data processing apparatus by subtracting a predetermined value from said first time [information];

a memory that temporarily stores the data received by said receiver; and

a processor that periodically counts up said second time information and starts processing the data temporarily stored in said memory when said second time information reaches said first time information.

112 ^{end} claim 37

33. (Amended Three Times) A communications data processing method performed by a communications data processing apparatus connecting to an external device via a public communications line, said method comprising the steps of:

- (a) receiving data containing first time information representing first time from said external device via the public communications line;
- (b) setting second time as second time information for the communications data processing apparatus by subtracting a predetermined value from said first time [information];
- (c) temporarily storing the data received by said receiving step;
- (d) periodically counting up said second time information; and
- (e) starting to process the data temporarily stored in said storing step when said second time information reaches said first time information.

37. (Amended Three Times) A storage medium storing a program, which a computer executes to realize a communications data process for a communications data processing apparatus connecting to an external device via a public communications line, comprising the instructions for:

(a) receiving data containing first time information representing first time from said external device via the public communications line;

(b) setting second time as second time information for the communications data processing apparatus by subtracting a predetermined value from said first time [information];

(c) temporarily storing the control data blocks received by said receiving step;

(d) periodically counting up said second time information; and

(e) starting to process the data temporarily stored in said storing step when said second time information reaches said first time information.

Attn 3 ✓

41. (Twice Amended) A communications data processing apparatus connecting to an external device via a public communications line, comprising:

a receiver that receives data containing first time information from [an] said external device via the public communications line;

a judging device that judges whether said received data is specific data or not;

a controlling device that rectifies said first time information by a predetermined value and sets the rectified first time information as second time information for the communications data processing apparatus when said judging device judges said received data is specific data and does not set the first time information as the second time information when said judging device judges said received data is not specific data;

a memory that temporarily stores said received data;

a processor that counts up the second time information periodically and processes the stored data in accordance with said counted up second time information and the first time information contained in the data to be processed.

45. (Twice Amended) A communications data processing method performed by a communications data processing apparatus connecting to an external device via a public communications line, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) receiving data containing first time information from [an] said external device via the public communications line;

(b) judging whether said received data is specific data or not;

(c) rectifying said first time information by a predetermined value and setting the rectified first time information as second time information for the communications data processing apparatus when said judging step judges said received data is specific data and not setting the first time information as the second time information when said judging step judges said received data is not specific data;

(d) temporarily storing said received data; and

(e) counting up the second time information periodically and processing the stored data in accordance with said counted up second time information and the first time information contained in the data to be processed.

46. (Twice Amended) A storage medium storing a program, which a computer executes to realize a communications data process for a communications data processing apparatus connecting to an external device via a public communications line, comprising the instructions for:

(a) receiving data containing first time information from [an] said external device via the public communications line;

(b) judging whether said received data is specific data or not;

(c) rectifying said first time information by a predetermined value and setting the rectified first time information as second time information for the communications data processing apparatus when said judging step judges said received data is specific data and not setting the first time information as the second time information when said judging step judges said received data is not specific data;

(d) temporarily storing said received data; and

(e) counting up the second time information periodically and processing the stored data in accordance with said counted up second time information and the first time information contained in the data to be processed.

48. (Amended) A communications data processing apparatus according to claim 29, further comprising:

a checking device that checks a time sequential flow of data temporarily stored in said memory; and

a remover that removes unnatural data from the flow of data stored in said memory to prevent production of an unnatural musical tone, wherein

said data temporarily stored in said memory contains data related to volume of a musical tone, and

said unnatural data is data which rapidly changes volume of a musical tone.

51. (Amended) A communications data processing method according to claim 33, further comprising the steps of:

(f) checking a time sequential flow of data temporarily stored in said memory; and

(g) removing unnatural data from the flow of data stored in said memory to prevent production of an unnatural musical tone, wherein

said data temporarily stored in said memory contains data related to volume of a musical tone, and

said unnatural data is data which rapidly changes volume of a musical tone.

53. (Amended) A storage medium storing a program according to claim 37, further comprising the instructions [of] for:

(f) checking a time sequential flow of data temporarily stored in said memory; and

(g) removing unnatural data from the flow of data stored in said memory to prevent production of an unnatural musical tone, wherein

said data temporarily stored in said memory contains data related to volume of a musical tone, and

said unnatural data is data which rapidly changes volume of a musical tone.